
8-25-2020

COVID-19 Case Reporting, Caring Well Texting, and Getting Started

Cedarville University

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AUGUST 25 UPDATE: COVID-19 CASE REPORTING, CARING WELL TEXTING, AND GETTING STARTED SESSIONS ONLINE

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August 25, 2020 |

Caring Well. Staying Well.

Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

Today we are sending a special update with important information about:

- COVID-19 case reporting
- Reviewing your contact information for emergency notifications and Caring Well text messages (students, faculty, and staff only)
- Getting Started event and seminar videos now available

COVID-19 Reporting (*updated 8/25/2020 – 10:25 PM*) — One of the many challenges of this coronavirus pandemic has been understanding and interpreting all of the data that is swirling in the media and readily available on online dashboards and news feeds. We have no lack of information, but meaning is far less obvious and even subject to debate.

This is a challenge for college campuses as well. This afternoon, Cedarville updated its reporting to best reflect our overall approach to containing COVID-19 on our campus. Each day, we will be reporting only the lab-confirmed student cases in isolation either on- or off-campus. Here is additional information to explain that direction:

As we prioritize the care and protection of our residential community, you are aware that we have implemented a proactive and very cautious containment strategy:

- **Testing** of all symptomatic students as well as testing athletes pursuant to NCAA requirements
- Immediate **contact tracing** to identify individuals who may have been exposed to infection, even if COVID-19 is not yet confirmed
- Precautionary **quarantine** for any students who may have been exposed to an individual who has exhibited COVID-related symptoms or who has tested positive for COVID-19
- **Isolation** for any student who has exhibited symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or who has a lab-confirmed test result

One of the results of this cautious strategy is a very fluid tracking scenario. Quarantine numbers fluctuate daily as students are notified of potential exposure or released when their contact's test result is returned as negative. Students with any symptoms (or cases "under investigation") are being required to isolate on- or off-campus, but are able to return to normal activities in 2-3 days when they are feeling better and their test result is confirmed as negative. On average, we are finding that approximately five students are asked to quarantine for every one student who has either presented with COVID-like symptoms or who has a lab-confirmed positive test.

Therefore, **the best indicator of campus containment of COVID-19 at Cedarville** is the current count of undergraduate or graduate students who are enrolled in a residential program of study and are currently in isolation due to a lab-confirmed positive test. This is the information that we will be reporting in our updated [COVID-19 Reporting dashboard](#) each day. To make this more visible, you will find a "COVID-19 Reporting" link at the top of our [Caring Well, Staying Well, resource webpages](#).

We are thanking the Lord that any students who previously had a test-confirmed case of COVID-19 have fully recovered, and as of this evening, there are no lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases among our residential undergraduate and graduate students. That is a significant praise! We do, of course, have students who have exhibited symptoms and are awaiting test results and students who have been placed in precautionary quarantine as a result. We will continue to carefully follow our processes for the protection of our campus community.

This is a great time to give a shout-out to our students, faculty, and staff who have embraced this new normal, sacrificially wearing masks and maintaining physical distance as we humbly care for one another. We benefit from a campus community that is taking this situation seriously and doing their part to help us have a successful semester. Thank you! Please continue to pray for the Lord's protection!

Caring Well and Emergency Notifications — Yesterday, we alerted you to the opportunity for our students, faculty, and staff to review and update their contact information stored in the Caring Well/Emergency Notification system. The system is now ready for updates. Please take a minute to [review your data](#) and ensure that it is accurate. Starting this week, Caring Well texting notifications will go only to cell phone numbers listed in the updated system.

Getting Started Sessions Available Online — If you missed any of the Getting Started sessions — or if you want to watch them again — you will now find them archived on the [Getting Started website](#). Note that the full Getting Started new student program, the Jacket Jaunt, and the UMS presentation that had to be canceled on Saturday are all included in this archive.

Posted in: [COVID-19](#), [Getting Started](#)

5 Comments

Anonymous says:

[August 26, 2020 at 11:44 am](#)

Excellent job of communication. Thank you for the wonderful job of supplying the perfect amount of information. Well done..

Kendra Tsibouris says:

[August 26, 2020 at 9:46 am](#)

Thank you so much for the time, energy and care that you are showing each and every student. We appreciate all that you are doing. To God be the glory!!

Keith Shomper says:

[August 26, 2020 at 6:19 am](#)

This is a well-balanced policy that was clearly and thoughtfully explained and is a great reflection on those that put it together and Cedarville's communication team. Thank you!

Amy says:

[August 25, 2020 at 8:02 pm](#)

PTL!!!! 🙌

Anonymous says:

[August 25, 2020 at 7:49 pm](#)

Praising God and way to go Cedarville

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